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Items 123 and 124 of the preliminary list*

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005

Programme planning

Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005

Programme 8
United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The preparation, format and content of the medium-term plan and its revisions are governed by the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (ST/SGB/2000/8).

2. Regulation 4.13 provides, inter alia, that the medium-term plan shall be revised as necessary every two years to incorporate required programme changes and that the proposed revisions shall be as detailed as necessary to incorporate the programme implications of the resolutions and decisions adopted by intergovernmental organs and international conferences since the adoption of the plan.

3. Through its resolutions 57/2 of 16 September 2002 and 57/7 of 4 November 2002, the General Assembly decided to bring the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s to a close and endorsed the recommendation of the Secretary-General that the New Partnership for Africa's Development (A/57/304, annex) should be the framework within which the international community, including the United Nations system, should concentrate its efforts for Africa's development. The Assembly underscored the need for a structure in the Secretariat in New York, at an appropriate level, that would review and report on support provided by the United Nations system and international community for the New Partnership and on the coordinated implementation of outcomes of summit meetings and conferences relating to Africa, as well as coordinate global advocacy in support of the New Partnership and, in that context requested the Secretary-

* A/58/50/Rev.1 and Corr.1.

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General to make proposals on the organization of such a structure within the framework of his proposals for the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005.

4. In his report entitled "Strengthening of the United Nations: an agenda for further change" (A/57/387 and Corr.1), the Secretary-General underlined that international and United Nations support should be promoted and monitored to ensure that appropriate attention is focused on Africa. He also drew attention to the recommendations of the independent evaluation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s concerning the need to implement appropriate coordination measures at United Nations Headquarters to support the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in their deliberations on Africa. Pursuant to that recommendation, the Secretary-General decided to give the Adviser for Special Assignments in Africa the responsibility of coordinating and guiding the preparation of reports and inputs for Africa-related debates of the Assembly and its subsidiary bodies and to transfer to him responsibility for the resources of the Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries, which was located in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

5. By its resolution 57/300 of 20 December 2002, the General Assembly approved the transfer of the resources allocated to the Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries and those from the office of the Adviser for Special Assignments in Africa to the new Office of the Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa, and also entrusted that office with the responsibilities of:

(a) Coordinating and guiding the preparation of Africa-related reports and inputs, in particular support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development, by the United Nations system and the international community and coordinating global advocacy in support of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;

(b) Coordinating the interdepartmental task force on African affairs to ensure coherence and an integrated approach for United Nations support to Africa, including following up the implementation of all summit and conference outcomes related to Africa and addressing gaps and initiating reports on critical issues affecting Africa.

6. Until the General Assembly decided, at its fifty-seventh session, to bring the New Agenda to a close, the activities of a global and regional nature carried out by the United Nations and the programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system in connection with the New Agenda were programmed under programme 8 of the medium-term plan[1] and section 10 of the programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 (A/56/6 (Sect.10)). Both programme 8 and section 10 are entitled "Africa: New Agenda for Development", and they include three subprogrammes, which are under the responsibility of the Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries, the Economic Commission for Africa and the Department of Public Information respectively.

7. In section I, paragraphs 5 and 6, of its resolution 57/282 of 20 December 2002, the General Assembly noted the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination that the Secretary-General submit proposals for revisions to programme 8 of the medium-term plan so as to reflect the final review and appraisal by the Assembly at its fifty-seventh session of the implementation of the New

Agenda and any other relevant legislative mandates, and requested the Secretary-General to submit those revisions through the Committee at its forty-third session for consideration by the Assembly at its fifty-eighth session. The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General, bearing in mind that a lack of time precluded further revision of the medium-term plan at the fifty-seventh session, to prepare the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 for programme 8 of the medium-term plan in line with the recommendations of the Committee at its forty-second session[2] and other relevant legislative mandates.

8. Pursuant to those requests, the revisions to programme 8 of the medium-term plan are set out in the annex to the present document. The revised programme, entitled "United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development", reflects the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions 57/2, 57/7 and 57/300 and constitutes the framework for an integrated and coordinated response by the United Nations in support of the New Partnership. Taking into account the nature and scope of the support that the United Nations and the programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system are expected to provide, the revised programme will continue to include the following three subprogrammes:

(a) Subprogramme 1, Coordination of global advocacy of and support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development, under the responsibility of the new Office of the Special Adviser on Africa;

(b) Subprogramme 2, Regional coordination of and support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development, under the responsibility of a special coordinating unit in the Economic Commission for Africa;

(c) Subprogramme 3, Public information and awareness activities in support of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, under the responsibility of the Africa Section in the Department of Public Information.

9. The revised programme provides the framework for section 11 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005, which is also submitted for the consideration of the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session in document A/58/6 (Sect. 11).

10. Because of the magnitude of the revisions, it was not considered practical to show the changes by using boldface type for the new text and striking out the text to be deleted. Accordingly, the narrative is presented as new and does not identify separately the new text and the text to be deleted. Instead, commentary and cross references to paragraphs in the existing revised medium-term plan[3] are indicated in italics.

11. There is no specialized reviewing body for this programme. The revisions are submitted directly to the central reviewing bodies for their consideration.

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/55/6/Rev.1).

[2] Ibid., *Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/57/16), chap. III.

[3] Ibid., *Supplement No. 6* (A/57/6/Rev.1).

Annex

Proposed revisions to programme 8 of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005*

United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development

[new title]

Overall orientation

8.1 The mandate of the programme derives mainly from General Assembly resolutions 55/2, 55/279, 56/95, 57/2, 57/7 and 57/300. The priority actions for achieving Africa's development goals are articulated in section VII of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Road map towards the implementation of the Millennium Declaration" (A/56/326) and the ministerial declaration adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its high-level segment of 2001. The activities to be undertaken within the framework of this programme are also derived from the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (A/52/871-S/1998/318), in which he made wide-ranging recommendations on the question of peace and development in Africa; the Organization of African Unity resolution entitled "Relaunching Africa's economic and social development: the Cairo Agenda for Action", and the Tokyo Agenda for Action, adopted by the Second Tokyo International Conference on African Development, in 1998. *[para. 8.3 changed to reflect new mandates of the General Assembly as well as the ministerial declaration of the Economic and Social Council]*

8.2 The former programme entitled "Africa: New Agenda for Development" was established subsequent to the identification by the General Assembly of the economic recovery and sustainable development of Africa as a top priority of the United Nations. It was designed to be a catalyst and to coordinate and promote activities undertaken by other programmes and entities directly responsible for the operational implementation of such activities. The programme was to play an advocacy role and ensure that issues related to African development remained on the agenda of the United Nations and the international community. Following the final review and appraisal of the New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, in 2002, the General Assembly adopted resolution 57/7, which brought the New Agenda to a close and endorsed the New Partnership for Africa's Development as the new framework for the international community's support for African development. *[part of the text is the same as in old para. 8.1]*

8.3 The main objectives of the programme are: (a) to mobilize the support of the international community for the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development; (b) to facilitate the process by which African countries can learn from and share the experience of other developing regions through South-South cooperation; (c) to promote a coordinated and effective response by the United

* *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/57/6/Rev.1).

Nations system at the global and regional levels in support of African development, in particular, the New Partnership; and (d) to raise international awareness on African development, in particular the priorities of the New Partnership. *[replaces old para. 8.2]*

8.4 While there have been signs of economic recovery in Africa in recent years, it is not yet strong enough nor sustained enough to reduce poverty or to contribute to the structural transformation of the region's economies. A wide range of problems, such as an overdependence on exports of a few primary commodities, the challenges of good governance and sound macroeconomic policies, desertification and environmental degradation, debt overhang, declining official development assistance against the backdrop of the continuing low level of domestic savings and investment, and a low level of foreign direct investment, as well as problems relating to the HIV/AIDS pandemic, post-conflict reconstruction and the emergence of new conflicts, undermine sustained growth and sustainable development in Africa. These have a negative impact on the successful integration of Africa into the global economy. Also, the ongoing pattern of natural disasters is reversing the limited economic gains made in recent years. *[most of the text is the same as in old para. 8.4]*

8.5 The programme's strategy would be organized around three main sets of activities: (a) the mobilization and coordination of international support; (b) enhanced coordination, monitoring and assessment of activities at the field level; and (c) advocacy and global awareness of the region's critical economic and social situation. To that end, at the policy level the programme would facilitate the work of intergovernmental and ad hoc bodies that discuss Africa through the submission of high-quality studies, proposals for action and progress reports on the status of implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development. At the operational level, it would be based on regular consultations and information-sharing on the priorities established by the New Partnership and intergovernmental processes with a view to enabling Africa to derive maximum benefit from improved coordination of the activities undertaken by the agencies of the United Nations system. The programme would actively promote partnership between Africa and the stakeholders in its development through a better flow of information and organizing forums for policy makers and experts. *[part of the text is the same as in old para. 8.6]*

8.6 The programme will be under the joint responsibility of the Office of the Special Adviser for Africa, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat. The Office of the Special Adviser on Africa provides overall coordination and leadership of the programme. *[replaces old para. 8.7]*

Subprogramme 1
Coordination of global advocacy of and support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development

[Replaces old subprogramme 1, old paras. 8.8-8.11 are replaced by the new paragraphs below]

Objective

8.7 The objectives of the subprogramme are to mobilize the support of the international community for African development, including through South-South cooperation, and to promote a coordinated effective response by the United Nations system in support of the New Partnership for Africa's Development.

Strategy

8.8 Substantive responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa. The subprogramme's strategy will focus on creating an environment that enables the international community to commit its support to Africa and to give effect to its commitments, and on enhancing ownership by African countries of their development processes. To that end, it will promote and strengthen the partnership between Africa and its development partners through the exchange of experiences and an improved flow of information, based on the priorities of the New Partnership for Africa's Development. The subprogramme will also encourage increased cooperation between Africa and the other regions, including through the Tokyo International Conference on African Development and other initiatives for greater South-South cooperation. At the policy level, it will contribute to the coordination of the response of the United Nations system to Africa by providing inputs, as necessary, to the work of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Committee for Programme and Coordination. In addition, the subprogramme will promote the implementation of the relevant provisions of the road map towards the implementation of the Millennium Declaration and the 2001 ministerial declaration of the Economic and Social Council, as well as the recommendations of the United Nations global conferences as they affect Africa, especially actions pertaining to the eradication of poverty and the integration of African countries into the global economy.

Expected accomplishments

8.9 The expected accomplishments would include: (a) increased international support for Africa's development; (b) increased awareness and understanding of African development issues by Member States and other stakeholders, including the private sector and civil society.

Indicators of achievement

8.10 The indicators of achievement would include: (a) the percentage of recommendations included in reports of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa and on the New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support, that are adopted by the General Assembly in resolutions

following debates on Africa, and (b) the frequency and profile of the users of the web sites.

Subprogramme 2
Regional coordination of and support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development

[Replaces old subprogramme 2, old paras. 8.12-8.16 are replaced by the new paragraphs below]

Objective

8.11 The objective of the subprogramme is to facilitate the coordination of United Nations system-wide support for the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development at the regional and subregional levels.

Strategy

8.12 Substantive responsibility for this subprogramme is vested in ECA. The strategy will include: (a) promoting the guiding principles of the New Partnership and building consensus on key priority areas through consultative forums and the exchange of information and experiences among regional, subregional and national stakeholders, taking advantage of annual regional consultations among United Nations agencies working in Africa as well as annual meetings of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts organized by ECA subregional offices; (b) fostering partnerships and networks in support of implementation schemes; and (c) monitoring, assessing and reporting on progress in the implementation of United Nations system-wide action plans in support of the New Partnership.

8.13 Additional activities include the organization of workshops, seminars and expert meetings aimed at promoting better awareness among African policy makers of Africa-related initiatives and programmes. The subprogramme will foster partnership so as to facilitate support for the implementation of the New Partnership.

Expected accomplishments

8.14 The expected accomplishments would include enhanced coordination between United Nations inter-agency clusters under the New Partnership, regional economic communities, the African Union, the African Development Bank, the secretariat of the New Partnership and non-governmental organizations in the implementation of the New Partnership at the regional, subregional and national levels.

Indicators of achievement

8.15 Indicators of achievement would include the number of consultative meetings with regional economic communities, United Nations New Partnership clusters and the New Partnership secretariat, including the African Union and the African Development Bank, as well as the quality and relevance of subsequent action programmes.

Subprogramme 3
Public information and awareness activities in support of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

[*Replaces old subprogramme 3; old paras. 8.17-8.20 are replaced by the new paragraphs below*]

Objective

8.16 The objective of the subprogramme is to contribute to international awareness of the critical economic and social situation in Africa, as well as of the efforts made by Africa and the international community to promote the economic recovery and sustainable development of the region in support of the New Partnership for Africa's Development.

Strategy

8.17 Substantive responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Africa Section of the Department of Public Information. The strategy is based on developing global communication strategies on priority issues affecting Africa and ensuring that those strategies are implemented in coordination with the rest of the Department, the United Nations Communications Group and the United Nations system as a whole. Activities will include the quarterly publication of *Africa Recovery*, along with a range of other outputs, including more web-only articles, briefing and background papers, brochures and articles placed in non-United Nations media. Dissemination to a diverse public as well as to target groups, such as parliamentarians, policy makers both in government and in non-governmental organizations, trade unions and civil society and academic institutions, will be done through direct contact with individuals and groups as well as through systematic outreach to the media in Africa and to the international mass media so as to ensure that key players are informed of major national and international initiatives and events that affect economic progress in Africa.

Expected accomplishments

8.18 The expected accomplishments would include: (a) greater availability to policy makers, the media and activists of readily digested analytical information on complex issues, such as the region's economic and socio-political situation and the international and African efforts required for the continent's development within the framework of the New Partnership; and (b) awareness by target readers of key thematic issues covered by the information materials produced by the programme, both in print and on the web site.

Indicators of achievement

8.19 The indicators of achievement would include: (a) the percentage of users expressing satisfaction with the value of materials published in *Africa Recovery* (print and electronic editions); and (b) the percentage of target readers expressing awareness of the key thematic issues.

Legislative mandates

Programme 8
United Nations Support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development

General Assembly resolutions

54/35	Zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic
54/232	Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty
55/2	United Nations Millennium Declaration
55/210	Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006), including the initiative to establish a world solidarity fund for poverty eradication
55/279	Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010
56/95	Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit
57/2	United Nations Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa's Development
57/7	Final review and appraisal of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development
57/296	Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa
57/300	Strengthening of the United Nations: an agenda for further change

Security Council resolutions

1170 (1998)

1197 (1998)

Economic and Social Council

Ministerial declaration adopted by the Council at its high-level segment of 2001